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FEB 7 1979

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY_____ DATE_____

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE_____

TS AUTH._____ REASON(S)_____

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒

RELEASE DENIED ☐

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS_____

Dear Mr. Tranter:

Reference is made to our telephone conversation of January 5 concerning Maryland laws relevant to burial and cremation of bodies of persons who died outside of Maryland.

Please find enclosed sample copies of the documents that presently accompany the body of each of the Jonestown, Guyana deceased when the body leaves the Dover Air Force Base Mortuary. These documents are:

1. Opinion of the Attorney General of Delaware dated December 6, 1978.

2. Statement of Assistant Delaware Attorney General Edward Kafader dated December 8, 1978.

3. Statement of Transit indicating the destination of the body.

4. Statement of Identification prepared by Dr. William R. Cowan, Chief of the Identification Team of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

5. Release of Liability (Assumption of Liability Statement).

6. Letter of the Solicitor General of Guyana dated December 4, 1978.

Jack Tranter
Assistant Attorney General
Maryland Department of Health
201 W. Preston Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

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7. Guyana death certificate for those that have been identified.

In addition, we have three additional documents that may be of interest to you. In a letter dated December 9, 1978 the Guyanese Solicitor General indicated that the death certificates being prepared by the Government of Guyana for the Jonestown deceased are sufficiently complete to satisfy Guyana legal requirements for burial and cremation in Guyana. We have also obtained a statement from Dover Air Force Base Mortuary Officer Charles Carson indicating that all the bodies have been embalmed and placed in hermetically sealed caskets and pose no health hazard. Copies of these two documents are enclosed. In addition, we are in possession of a certified true copy of the jury verdict of the Coroner's inquest held in Guyana in connection with these deaths. We have also obtained a copy of the "Notes of Evidence" that resulted from this proceeding.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would indicate what the requirements of Maryland law are relative to burial and cremation of bodies in Maryland. Specifically, what documentation must be presented before the body of a person who died outside Maryland, can be buried or cremated in Maryland. We are studying the feasibility of burying in Maryland and neighboring states the Bodies of identified Jonestown deceased upon the request of the next-of-kin, as well as the possibility of burying the bodies of unclaimed and unidentified Jonestown deceased in Maryland and surrounding states. Any citation to pertinent Maryland laws or regulations you might be able to provide in the course of your response would be most appreciated.

Your assistance and cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lois M. Day
Director Designate
Office of Citizens Consular Services

Enclosures:

As stated

CA/OCS/CCS/EA:MJWhitecotton 2/6/79